

THE GOLDEN AGE RETURNS

GRAMMAR ASSUMED:

Third & Fourth Conjugations:

Passive Voice of the Present System

WHEELOCK: CHAPTER 21

This passage comes from the Eclogues, a collection of ten short bucolic poems by Vergil. The fourth eclogue, which depicts the return of a golden age, is sometimes called "Messianic" because Christians in the Middle Ages identified the puer of the poem with Christ.

- Nunc aetās magna atque nova incipit. Puer nāscitur ac
gēns aurea venit. Mundus gravī metū liberābitur. Ille puer
deōrum vītā accipiet deōsque vidēbit, et ipse vidēbitur
ab illīs. Mundum reget antīquīs virtūtibus. Simul atque
5 laudēs et facta parentis legere et virtūtem scīre poterit, agrī
beātī dulcēs frūctūs omnibus hominibus parābunt. Re-
manēbunt tamen pauca vitia quae hominēs temptāre
mare nāvibus, quae hominēs cingere urbēs mūrīs iubēbunt.
Erunt etiam altera bella, atque iterum Trōiam magnus
10 mittētur Achillēs. Ubi autem hunc puerum virum fēcerit
fortis aetās, maria relinquentur ā vectōribus, nec nautae
pecūniae causā mercēs mūtābunt. Rōbustus agricola taurōs
iugō liberābit; nōn rāstrīs tangētur humus; omnis terra
omnia feret.

—adapted from Vergil, *Eclogues* 4.4–39

VOCABULARY:

nāscor, nāscī, nātus sum: to be born, spring forth

aureus, -a, -um: golden

accipiō, -ere, -cēpī, -ceptus: to receive

simul (adverb): at the same time (+ atque = as soon as)

parēns, -entis, m. or f.: parent

temptō (1): to try (out), test

cingō, -ere, cīnxī, cīnctus: to gird, encircle

mūrus, -ī, m.: wall

Trōiam: accusative of place to which

Achillēs, -is, m.: Achilles, greatest Greek hero during the 10-year
war against the Trojans

fortis aetās: strong stretch of years, i.e. mature age

vector, -ōris, m.: passenger, seafarer

merx, mercis, f.: merchandise, goods

rōbustus, -a, -um: strong, hardy

taurus, -ī, m.: bull

iugum, -ī, n.: yoke

rāstrum, -ī, n.: rake, toothed hoe

humus, -ī, f.: ground, earth, soil

ferō, ferre, tulī, lātus: to bear, produce (feret = future tense)

5

10